

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM, BOSTON COLLEGE**

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The rest of our evening was devoted to an optional mass, soccer, a barbeque dinner, and lots of free time to chat with friends (or especially in the case of freshmen, making some). Hours later, when

Jean-Paul Sanday, CSOM'06, describes the Presidential Scholars Program as a "unique moment in my life." For Jean-Paul, the Presidential Scholars Program has had a huge impact on his life trajectory. As a Marketing and Operations major, he focused on the business world, but his experiences as a Presidential Scholar drove him to look beyond the corporate world to non-profits as well. While he was an undergraduate at BC, he co-founded the Level Field Foundation, a non-profit aimed at refurbishing and building new athletic facilities in inner-city areas. The Level Field Foundation, though it has condensed, is still in operation today. He says that the program, with the emphasis on social justice, inspired him to take his business learning into the world of the non-profit.

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# Sophomore Class Embraces Service In Shaw House

*To fulfill the Jesuit ideal of being men and women in service to others, during the summer following their freshman year the Scholars explore the problems of hunger, homelessness, and educational inequity in the Boston area through participation in a program modeled after PULSE, Boston College's nationally acclaimed course of study and service. Through their work, Presidential Scholars are challenged to see themselves in relation to acute national problems, to think creatively about the roots of these problems, the nature and efficacy of society's response, and the response that these problems elicit in their own personal and professional lives. In parallel with their service, Scholars read and reflect on a variety of texts--from philosophy, social science, public policy, economics and theology--pertinent to issues of poverty and social justice. Weekly discussion sessions challenge Scholars to integrate these readings with their field experiences and to reflect on the implications for their personal values and professional goals.*

Presidential Scholars, like many dedicated students at Boston College, are typically very active on campus which allow us to express ourselves and our diverse interests. We busy our lives with academic programs, political and community leadership

Presidential Scholars tend to be high achievers. It's not surprising, then, that when the time to apply for Advanced Study Grants (ASGs) rolls around, many Scholars express interest. An ASG is a grant from Boston College given to an undergraduate to pursue an original research project or a skills acquisition project over the summer. Primarily, they are used for learning skills that aren't covered at Boston College, like archaeology. This year, five Scholars were awarded grants to pursue projects in diverse fields, from microbiology to history. Ellen White, A&S'15, and Victoria Luu, A&S'14, were both awarded grants for scientific research or skills acquisition—Ellen received a grant to work in labs at University of Southern California, and Victoria worked on the impact of the absorption of carbon dioxide in oceans in Alaska.

Other grants were more focused on research: Grace West, A&S'15, received a grant to study the Moravian Church, specifically focusing on the experiences of African slaves and their descendants within this close-knit religious community. Having the opportunity to do research in archives of the Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as well as participate in a worship service at St. Philip's congregation was a hugely meaningful experience for Grace. Beyond simply doing research, her ASG also funded a course in audio documentary production at Duke University, and Grace hopes to produce a full-length audio documentary out of her summer

research. For Grace, the ASG provided an opportunity to cement her interests in race and religion in the American South, and gave her insight on possible career paths.

For other Scholars, the ASG was an opportunity to practice skills they might not otherwise be able to do, even if those skills may not translate into a career. Frank DiRenno, A&S'15, went to Altopascio (near Pisa, Italy) for four weeks to work on an archaeological dig, focusing specifically on the bones from the graveyards under

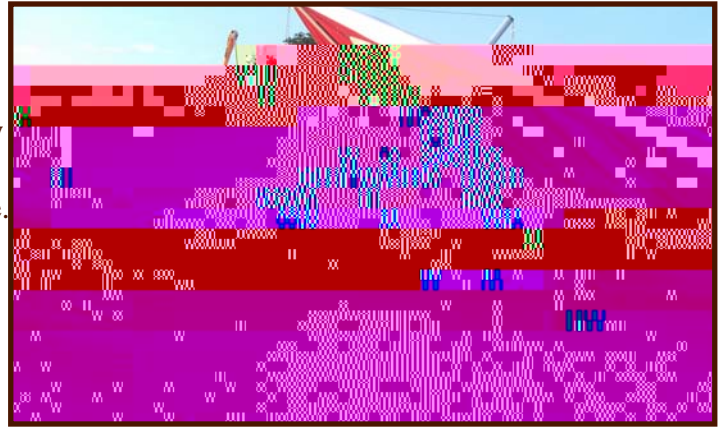
excavation. For Frank, this was a

Scholars took more traditional routes and focused on building skills in areas of expertise already identified as potential career paths. There were many key takeaways provided by our presenters, including Kelsey Swift, who taught English in Haiti, Colleen Sinnott, who worked with HealthLeads, a Boston-regional social work/public health organization, and Rachel Newmiller, who explored exhibit design at the Smithsonian Museums outside of Washington D.C., combined with my own insights from working at Lookout Mountain.

From redesigning the entire summer due to visa requirements and changing responsibilities, we all had to think outside the box and find solutions in order to have the best summer possible. Although each Scholar had a fruitful summer, no internship went precisely as planned. Personally, I rediscovered

the difficulties of trying to implement new ideas in an already established company structure. Given that most of my work was in sales, I learned how to effectively persuade others to see my point of view and rally to my side: so much so that I was able to design and run a successful marketing campaign.

Kelsey reported that while she enjoyed her time in Haiti, she felt that her position as a teacher and implementer of social change would have been much more effective if she had more skills to bring to the table. While she indicated that she would certainly go back to Haiti, she felt that there would need to be a more definite reason and structure to her next



visit, other than to teach English. Meanwhile, Kelsey affirmed that she enjoys teaching adults and wants to consider incorporating adult education into her life, either as a career path or volunteer work.

From a different perspective, Colleen found that her job was more like being a social worker than a medical practitioner. While she wants to be a doctor, the experience included many communication-based tasks such as cold-calling patients and doing follow-ups, which she determined may not be the right route for her in public health. Despite being closely related to what she wants to do as a career, Colleen identified that the caveats in

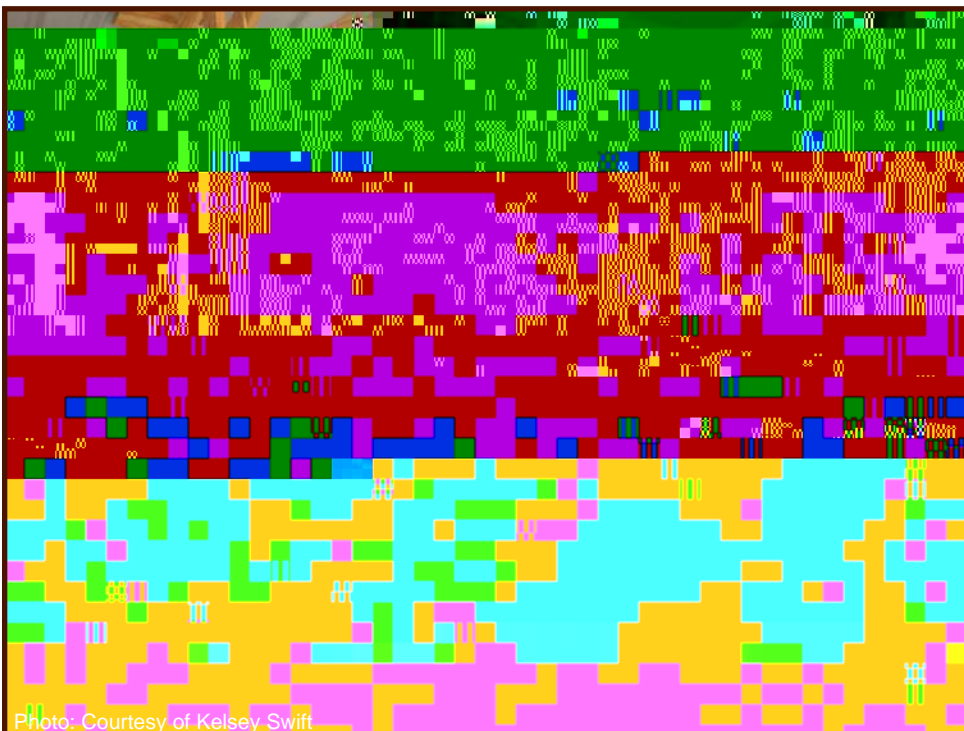


Photo: Courtesy of Kelsey Swift

with a new sense of humility and esteem for life.

On Friday mornings at 9am, we organized ourselves for a roundtable discussion under the leadership of Professor David McMnamin, a professor of philosophy and the director of the renowned PULSE program, a year-long course that engages students in social justice missions throughout the greater Boston area. Our discussions were centered on a wide curriculum of books and novels that presented the theme of social justice in different ways—politically, economically, sociologically, philosophically, ethically, and theologically. This curriculum really lived up to the Jesuit ideal of “men and women for others,” as well as the commitment of Boston College and the Presidential Scholars Program to integrate intellectual, personal, ethical, and religious formation.

What emerged from our readings and group discussions was a paradigm of *self* and *other* that encouraged us to examine the hidden relationships between us and the outside world. For example, by reading Jane Jacobs’ *The Life and Death of Great American Cities*, we developed a greater understanding of the role of a city’s infrastructure and urban planning in the socio-geographic lives of people. Looking at our own city of Boston, we talked about how the insular, income-based separation of neighborhoods can create an “us vs. them” perception of social life that not only undermines the sense of community and social responsibility, but leads to people considering actions like vandalism

to be someone else’s problem. In *Doing the Truth in Love*, Michael Himes challenged us with the penetrating question, “What is the best possible way in which

# From Venice to Tajikistan, Scholar's Language Studies Span the Globe

For the Class of 2014, this past summer was an opportunity to explore the world. Every Scholar had the opportunity to go abroad to study a language of their choice, and gain an international perspective on their own interests. The Scholars spread out across the globe, from Venice, Italy, to Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Each Scholar returned with a broader lens on issues that varied from public health to ecology and urban development, as well as a better grasp of a foreign language.

“It is indisputable that the world becomes ever more connected,” said Matthew Alonzoana, A&S’14, who spent eight weeks at Peking University in Beijing. “Having the opportunity to go to another country and learn the language of its people, draws us much closer to their culture. By being able to interact with them better, we learn from each other better.” While he was abroad,

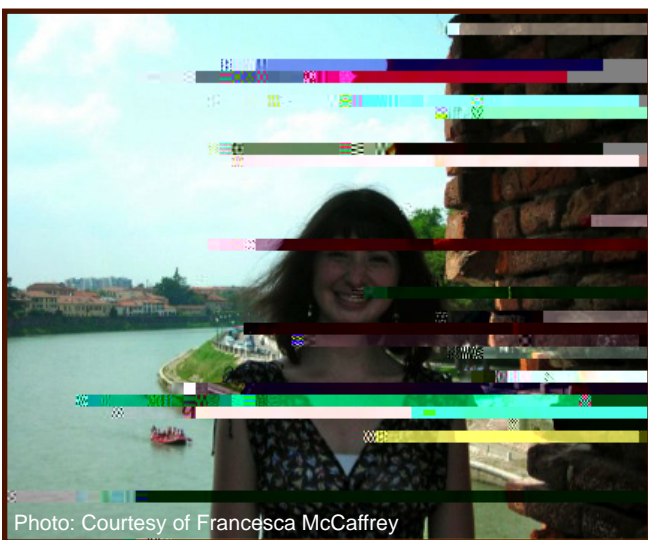


Photo: Courtesy of Francesca McCaffrey

Francesca McCaffrey, A&S’14, enjoying the day in Venice, Italy.

Matthew focused primarily on intensive Chinese language study, but was also able to learn about the Chinese public health system and traditional Chinese medicine.

Brooke Loughrin, A&S’14, spent her time in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Brooke was in Tajikistan as a Scholar in the U.S. Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship (CLS). This competitive scholarship was only awarded to 631 students out of more than 5,200 undergraduate and graduate students.

“CLS was a wonderful opportunity to take two months out of my schedule to focus day and night exclusively on Persian,” Brooke said. Her studies consisted of both Classical and Modern Persian literature classes. “We had the chance to study some of Iran’s most famous authors and poets. Every day after classes, we also had four to five hours of private one-on-one tutoring to practice speaking” Brooke said.

Though they were abroad, Boston College was still present in many Scholar’s experiences.

Francesca McCaffrey, A&S’14, who spent five weeks in Venice, Italy, spent her time practicing her Italian, and researching ecology, urban development, and environmental law, which is particularly interesting in a city surrounded by water.

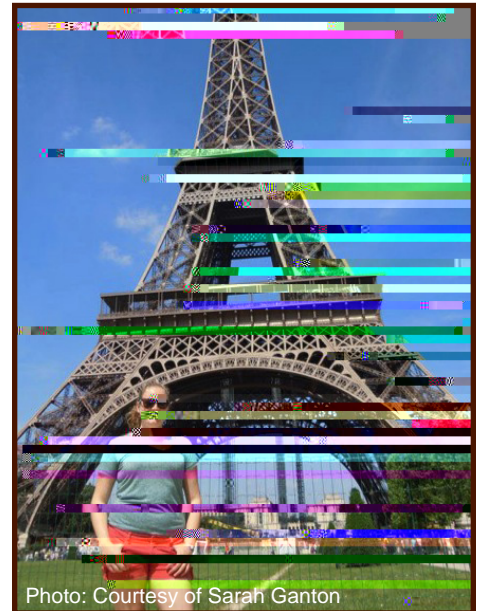


Photo: Courtesy of Sarah Ganton

Sarah Ganton, A&S’14, before the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.

She also took a course taught by a BC Professor Marc Landy on Venetian history, politics, and ecology. David DePalma, A&S’14, who also spent his summer in Italy, was in Rome, taking language and culture classes at the Sapienza-University of Rome. He also spent time in Verona, interning at the Solid State Chemistry Laboratory under Professor Marco Bettinelli, a colleague of BC physics professor Baldassare DiBartolo. Though the lab was fascinating, David says, “a highlight of my trip was being in Rome’s Circus Maximus for a viewing party for the UEFA Euro 2012 final between Italy and Spain with over 500,000 Italian soccer fans!”

While some Scholars used their time abroad to further professional or academic interests, others used it to further interests. Marye Moran, A&S’14, went to Mussoorie, India, focusing on



her summer. She worked in the model shop, designing and making exhibits, and by the end of the summer had presented ideas to a full team of high level executives and was a part of each step of the process.

In each internship, a high degree of independence and trust was established. I believe this was one of the most fundamental components to having a good

# Presidential Scholar Makes History at UN

On September 21, 2012, Brooke Loughrin received news of the opportunity of a lifetime. Three weeks after she and seven hundred other people had applied to be the first ever U.S. Youth Observer at the United Nations, she was the one who would be on a plane to New York within three hours. The next day, she would find herself in the heart of the activity at UN General Assembly Week, meeting with agents of change from around the world and beginning her responsibilities in the new, historic position.

The U.S. Youth Observer program, launched by the United Nations Association of the U.S.A.,

**Mark Noferi, PSP '96**, was published in the New Jersey Law Journal for an op-ed piece regarding the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE)

the UNA-USA website. Her past international experiences proved valuable in communicating the interconnectivity of global issues.

During her stay, Brooke had close meetings with U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice and Under Secretary of State Maria Otero. She also attended the most important meeting on polio eradication in the last twenty-five years. "Polio is eliminated from ninety percent of the world, but it is still endemic in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria." She met with Bill Gates, who has dedicated a lot of time, money, and effort to the cause of polio eradication. All of her meetings and events were shared with her many followers, who were lucky enough to be taken along for the ride via Twitter and her blog.

After this amazing week, Brooke's responsibilities were

back to work. On October 5, she headed back to New York to meet with Youth Observers from UN member nations around the world. She will continue to encourage youth involvement through Twitter (@USYouthObserver) and her blog (<http://www.unausa.org/membership/us-youth/blog>). In December, she will head to Washington, D.C. for another busy week that will include meeting with representatives from the U.S. Department of State and

but I spend four to five hours a day looking for water." These words landed her on "10 Inspiring Quotes from Mashable's Social Good Summit," ahead of quotes from Nicholas Kristof and Hillary Clinton, to name a few! The video of the Social Good Summit panel can be found on Brooke's page on

# Welcome PSP Class of 2016!



**Isaac Akers  
Chapel Hill, NC**

**Lucas Allen  
Marlborough, MA**

**Sahil Amin  
Fairfield, NJ**

**Harrison Bacon  
Buffalo, NY**

**Andrew Boyce  
Mendon, NJ**

**Vivian Chang  
Morganville, NJ**

**Nick Denari  
Indianapolis, IN**

**Anthony Gallanis  
San Diego, CA**

**Tate Krasner  
Charlotte, NC**

**Catherine Larrabee  
Glen Ellyn, IL**

**Daniel Lundberg  
Orono, MN**

**Marissa Marandola  
Cranston, RI**

**Maureen McGrath  
West Chester, PA**

**Lucy Methven  
Midlothian, VA**

**Claudion Quintana  
Lake Oswego, OR**

**Nathan Schwan  
Arcadia, FL**

